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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01

NEA-14 IO-14 /108 W
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P R 171537Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9673
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 2929

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, US, YO, XF
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: NIXON VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

1. YUGOSLAV PRESS CONTINUES PROMINENT COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR, WITH FRONT-PAGE NEWS PLAY DURING WEEKEND JUNE 15-17.

LIMITED COMMENTARIES THUS FAR VIEW TRIP FAVORABLY, EMPHASIZING IMPROVEMENT IN US-ARAB RELATIONS, BUT CAUTIONING THAT QUESTION OF FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT IS INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON JUST SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

2. BELGRADE'S POLITIKA JUNE 16, IN WEEKLY REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BY COMMENTATOR DUSAN SIMIC, NOTES "VISIBLE CHANGE" IN US POSITION TOWARD ARABS AND CONSIDERS FUTURE U.S. REALITONS MIDDLE EAST WILL BE "AS FIRM AS FULFILLMENT OF BASIC ARAB EXPECTATIONS." BELGRADE'S WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE NIN COMMENTS THAT NIXON TOUR IS EXPECTED TO MARK BEGINNING OF ANOTHER ROUND OF DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS "ON ALREADY QUITE DEFINED FIELD OF PALESTINIAN INITIAL DEMANDS." SARAJEVO DAILY OSLOBODJENJE JUNE 15 INCLUDES TANJUG DESPATCH (CAIRO) ON CONCLUSION OF NIXON VISIT TO EGYPT. TANJUG REPORTS THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT HIGH LEVEL
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DIALOGUE FOCUSED ON THREE MAIN PROBLEMS: PALESTINIAN EQUESTIO,

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US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, AND FORTHCOMING SUMMIT MEETING IN MOSCOW.

3. BELGRADE PRESS JUNE 17 GIVES TOP NEWS COVERAGE (UPI) TO RE-SUMPTION OF SU-SYRIAN RELATIONS, WITH NIXON-ASSAD PHOTO. JUNE 16 DAILIES BORBA AND POLITIKA CARRIED PAGE-ONE REPORTS (UPI, AP, REUTERS) OF NIXON VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, WHILE JUNE 15 PRESS DEVOTED SIMILAR ATTENTION TO CONCLUSION OF NIXON VISIT TO EGYPT. JOHNSON

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